



Michael A. Solomon

Council President

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Angel Taveras
Executive Office
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mayor Taveras:

I write to propose a comprehensive solution to the many issues raised related to the Davey Lopes Recreation Center pool and access to swim instruction for the children of Providence.

Since the administration's decision to close the Davey Lopes pool in the summer of 2013, we have heard from community members, activists, and elected officials expressing their concern. The pool's closure has also raised larger issues regarding the costs of maintaining and operating city pools and the desire from many community members for increased swim instruction for Providence youth.

We propose a five member commission to examine the issues surrounding swim instruction and public pools in the city of Providence. The Mayor will appoint the members of the commission and they will be subject to City Council approval. A minimum of two members must come from Ward 11.

The commission will be tasked with studying and providing recommendations related to swim instruction throughout the city, the expansion of public-private partnerships to increase access to pools and instruction, the costs associated with operating and maintaining city pools, safety rules and regulations, data collection and record keeping, and the use of water parks as an alternative.

The commission will take testimony, hold public hearings, and issue a report with recommendations to the Recreational Advisory Board and City Council no later than April 1st, 2014. Moreover, until that time, the City will take no further action to close any other recreation center pools, nor will the City demolish the Davey Lopes Recreation Center pool.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Solomon
Council President